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AB

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/638,693 | 08/15/2000 | Geert Maertens | 2752-15 | 2013 |
| 23117 | 7590 | 10/13/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC 1100 N GLEBE ROAD 8TH FLOOR ARLINGTON, VA 22201-4714 | | | MARTINELL, JAMES | |
| | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER | |
| | | 1631 | | |

DATE MAILED: 10/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Advisory Action | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 09/638,693 | MAERTENS ET AL. |
| | Examiner James Martinell | Art Unit 1631 |

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

THE REPLY FILED 27 August 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
 - (a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: See Continuation Sheet.

3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): none.
4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: none.

Claim(s) objected to: none.

Claim(s) rejected: 56, 59, 74 and 76-85.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

8. The drawing correction filed on _____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.
9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
10. Other: See Continuation Sheet



James Martinell
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1631
10/17/04

Continuation of 2. NOTE: The proposed CRF to be copied from SN 09/878,281 is improper and raises the new issue of possible new matter. There is no provision for copying a sequence CRF from an application filed subsequent to the application to be copied to. Applicants assert the 09/878,281 is a related application, but non relationship is clear in the record. The response is not clear as to the basis in the application as filed for all of the proposed amendments to the specification and claims. There is no record of an amendment in this file dated August 15, 2000 (see the response, page 20, last full paragraph). The response at page 21, paragraph bridging pages 21-22 states that the amendment is to be consistent with Serial No. 09/638,693, but the serial number of the instant application is 09/638,693. The drawing on page 25 of the response does not clarify the proposed claims and applicatns do not point to basis in the application as filed for the proposed interpretation of the claims. The proposed amendments for claims 56, 59, and 75 would necessitate a new search.

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: it is not clear how the recited portions of the priority document support the claims.

Continuation of 10. Other: Copies of PTO-1449 forms submitted 8/15/00 and 5/8/01 are attached. The references crossed out were indicated as considered on the PTO-1449 submitted 9/13/02..